Numb. 88.

The Female Tatler.

Written by a Society of Ladies.

Nec Sequior Sexus magnis virtutibus impar.

From Friday January 30, to Wednesday February 1, 1710.

Lucinda's Day.

From my CLOSET.

THE first Place of our Table of *Fame* being taken up by so Glorious a Queen, it is necessary I should acquaint you with the Method I design to observe in filling the rest, before I give you the Names of the Illustrious Companions I intend shall pay their Respects to the Incomparable Princess. First, to shew the vast stock our Sex can boast of, I shall make no Advantage of the Virtuous Women of Fabulous Antiquity, and leave out the *Penelope's*, *Iphigenia's*, *Hippolita's*, with several Hundreds that were Created by *Poets* and brought up by Composers of Romances. Secondly, I shall admit no Women, how Famous soever, that have not been equally Virtuous. If Mr *Bickerstaff* would have kept to the same Rule with the Men, a very little Table would have serv'd them: The Courage of *Alexander*, and the Severity of *Cato*, are despicable to a Virtuous Eye, when they fall in two Drunkards. I abhor the Doctrine of *Tassus*, who would connive at in a Queen what a Peasant would Murther his Wife for: Chastity ought to be inseparable from our Sex; I shall not extol the Valour of the Resolute, the Victorious but Unchaste *Semiramis*, nor speak in Praise of the Spirit and Generosity of the Knowing and Licentious, the Magnanimous and Debauch'd *Cleopatra*; I shall mention no Heroins but what were Chaste and Good, as well as Eminent and Great, none but what have had the same degree of Courage and Modesty, and always conserved the same Purity in the Splendor of even the most elevated Fortune. Thirdly, I shall allow the Name of Heroin to none but such as with the hazard of their Lives, have done some Eminent Service to their Country, or else led by some Virtuous Motive, affronted Death with Intrepidity.

The most Antient we meet with in History is *Debora*, the Wife and Valiant Commandress of the *Jews*, that deliver'd 'em from the Bondage of the *Canaanites*. In her we may behold a Widow destributing Rights and Arbitrary Duties, a Widow ordaining Peace and War, a Widow directing Combats and Victories, and in her Life we may see the Stubborn and Mutinous *Jews*, whom no Human Prudence could govern in time of Peace, faint hearted and Vanquish'd *Jews*, whom no Valour of Men could defend in time of War, reduced to Order and Military Discipline, become Tractable and Victorious under the Regency of a Widow; a Regency, during which no Complaint was made, and in whose Praise it may be said, that Sacred Writ which has not concealed the Defects of the Patriarchs, and published to Posterity the Diffidence of *Moses* and *Aaron*, the Imprudence of *Joshua*, the Incontinence of *Sampson*, the Fall of *David*, and the Follies of *Solomon*, found nothing to reprehend in *Debora*, and left us only her Prophecies and Hymns, her Laws and Victories. The next is *Jahel*, who gave the last Blow to the Pride of the *Canaanites*, finishing the Victory which *Debora* had begun: This one Woman was worth a whole Army, in whose Hand a Nail accomplish'd what Ten Thousand Lances and as many Swords were not able to effect. After her, in time only, comes *Judith*, by cutting off the Head of *Holoferness*, raising the Siege of *Bethulia*, by which Memorable Action she shew'd her self not only more Valiant and Intrepid, but more Intelligent and Prudent than all *Judea*, which she preserved, and all *Assyria* which she overcame. No less Resolute or Courageous was *Salomona*, the first Gallant Woman who Fought without Arms, and Conquer'd by Death: She was the Mother of the *Macchabees*, who assisting at the Torments of her Children, exhorted them to Constancy and Perseverance in their Faith; having suffer'd Seven Deaths in as many of her Sons, she would endure the last pouring out her Blood by the same force wherewith she had restrained her Tears. The last of *Jewish* Race I shall produce, is the Virtuous *Mariamne*, a famous Pattern of Ill-rewarded Constancy: She retained her Noble Confidence, and preserved all her Majesty, amidst suborn'd Accusers, Corrupted and Confederated Judges, and with undaunted Courage fell a Victim to her Tyrants Ill-grounded Jealousy.

Among the Barbarian Woman, a great Example of Conjugal Love was *Panthea*, who after the Defeat of the *Assyrians* remain'd a Captive in the Court of *Cyrus*: A *Persian* Nobleman having made an Attempt upon her Honour, she gave undeniable Proofs of her Discretion, Chastity and Fidelity, and so Manly was the Affection she bore her Husband *Abradates*, that being brought to her covered over with his own Blood and that of his Enemies, she receiv'd him Courageously, and having tried in vain to make his Soul return, opened her Bosom with a Sword; and leaning on him as if she were willing to fill his Heart with her Blood and Life, she died in two Bodies, and yielded up her Soul thro' her Husbands Wound and her own.

Camma was Princess of *Galatia*, and the Wife of *Sinatus*. *Sinnorix* enamour'd with her Beauty, attack'd her Virtue, but in vain, till abandoning himself to Despair, he Murther'd her Husband as the surest Step to her Bed and Throne. After this Treachery, he renews his Addresses, but thro' all Disguises *Camma* dis-

covers

covers the Monſter, and when ſhe could find no other way to punith the Traytor, ſhe promiſed him Marriage. Every thing being prepared for the Ceremony, ſhe took up the Cup in which Poiſon was ſteeped, Drank part of it, and gave the reſt to *Sinorix*. *Camma* had the Satisfaction to ſee him Die with her, and having enjoy'd two or three Hours of her Revenge, and the Glory of her Fidelity, ſhe went to carry the News of both to *Sinnatus*.

Artemiſia to all great Queens is an everlaſting Example of peaceable Magnanimity and a Widowhood, Courageous without Deſpair, and afflicted without Dejection: She erected her Husband's Tomb into a Miracle, by a Structure in which all the Arts wearied themſelves, and Nature herſelf was almoſt exhauſted; but judging that the richeſt Works of Art and Nature could not worthily enough Conſerve ſo precious a Pledge, ſhe drank off his Aſhes mingled with her Tears, to ſhew that *Artemiſia* alone could make a fit Sepulchre for *Mauſolus*.

Monima, when *Mileta* was taken, could not be Conquer'd either by Force or Compoſition; the Conqueror at laſt gives over unlawful Purſuits, and ſeeks her in the way of Marriage, to which *Monima*, thro' the Ambition of her Kindred, conſents rather to repair the Ruins of her Country, than to aſcend his Throne. *Mithridates* overcome by the *Romans*, ſends his Orders to *Monima*, to wait for him in the other World, with an aſſurance that he would preſently follow her. The Generous Woman accepts of the barbarous Will, with leſs Emotion than ſhe had conſented to her Marriage, and as the neareſt means to execute it, makes a Cord of her Diadem; but the Royal Ornament being broken between her Hands, ſhe undauntedly tender'd her Throat to the Eunuchs Sword that brought her the News.

Zenobia, Queen of the *Palmireneans*, chas'd *Roman* Eagles, and by the Defeat of the Imperial Army, ſecured to herſelf the Conqueſt of *Ægypt*. She marched at the Head of her Troops, always the firſt in Fight, and the laſt in Retreat: Her Eyes were the Common Fire of the Camp; the moſt Effeminate there warmed themſelves, and drew Vigour and Courage from thence. *Zenobia*'s very Repoſe was Active and Heroick; in time of Peace ſhe Hunted Lyons and Tygers, and her Diverſiſements were dangerous Combats and Eſſays of Victories.

Among the *Roman* Worthies, beſides *Lucretia*, *Clelia* and *Porcia*, of whom has been ſaid enough in our foregoing Papers, I ſhall only take Notice now of *Arria*, the Wife of *Cicinna*, who having every way followed her Husband's Fortunes, in a Conſpiracy againſt the Stupid and Ridiculous Emperor *Claudius*; and ſeeing her Husband would be put to Death, ſtrove to perſwade him rather to embrace voluntarily what otherwiſe his Enemies would force upon him, and told him how ſhe would ſtill accompany his Fate. Her Friends diſwade her from it, but *Arria* perſiſts, and ſeeing that after all the Remonſtrances ſhe had made, the Soul of *Cicinna* could not be looſen'd yet, nor himſelf perſwaded to depart honourably out of the World, and avoid the Infamy of dying by the Hands of an Executioner: As he ſtood deliberating between Reſolution and Fear, ſhe plung'd a Dagger into her Boſom, which ſhe had provided for that purpoſe; and then drawing it forth warm and dropping, ſhe preſented it to him with theſe Words, which were the moſt Heroick and Victorious that ever iſſued from a *Romans* Mouth: *Take this Dagger* Ciciana, *it has done me no harm.* *Cicinna* received from her Hand with the Weapon the Spirit and Courage which came forth of her Wound, and died rather by the Magnanimity of *Arria*, than by his own Courage.

More of this another Opportunity.

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